

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

## STATE OF MONTANA

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### DECISION MEMO ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE

Invasive Species Education Trailer  
April 15, 2022  
Gallatin Conservation District  
Administrative  
Manhattan, Montana  
Gallatin County

#### PURPOSE AND NEED

Invasive species replace native plant communities, increase soil erosion, degrade water quality, damage fish & wildlife habitat, reduce the value of land, decrease recreation & hunting opportunities, increase maintenance costs (including trails), and diminish recreational experiences. By informing the public about the multitude of problems caused by invasive species, the education trailer will help prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species, thereby protecting the function and resiliency of native ecosystems.

The area encompasses some of the most ecologically and economically important resources in the state, providing vital habitat and water for plants, wildlife, and the people who live and recreate in the area. This project will educate the public, inspire the community, and advocate for conservation practices that maintain the ecological integrity and economic health of the community. This project aims to address and mitigate the impacts of human activity upon natural resources to ensure that what we love so much about this place is not destroyed by our pursuit to experience it.

Jennifer Mohler, Executive Director of Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance (a 501c3 non-profit), will implement and manage the entire project. She will coordinate with partners on the design and build process. HB 223 grant funds will be used to purchase trailer exterior and interior signs, education features, and materials. Once trailer is complete it will be used by project partners at educational events including:

1. Youth education events - Ophir school 2nd graders annual field trip, Camp Big Sky, Jack Creek Preserve Outdoor Skills Camp, and more.
2. Big Sky Farmers Market - the weekly Farmers Market in Big Sky that runs every Wednesday night from late May through September.
3. Community events like The Rut (mountain running event), Total Archery Challenge, and more.
4. Crail Gardens, the native demonstration garden at the Historical Crail Ranch, where the trailer will be on display at two open houses, wildflower festival week, and assist us with the annual native plant sale.
5. Mobile, season long advertising as when not in use, the education trailer will be parked around town in highly visible areas to serve as a nomadic billboard.

**Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):**

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Gallatin Conservation District HB223 Grant.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

**ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)**

☒ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.

☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.

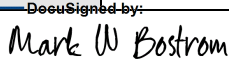
☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.

☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.

☒ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

<b>Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Hailey Graf <b>Title:</b> CD Specialist <b>Email:</b> hailey.graf@mt.gov	<b>Date:</b> 3/28/2022
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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator
<b>Signature:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <small>DocuSigned by:</small>   </div> <div style="float: right;"><b>Date:</b> 4/5/2022   12:20:29 PM MDT</div>

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Photos Attached

